

# Spring Mill State Park

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/programs/schedule/>

## August 2006

**Nature Center Hours:**  
Daily 10:00am-5:00pm (EDT)

**Pioneer Village Hours:**  
9:00am-5:00pm (EDT)  
Daily April thru October 29  
Weekends thru December 3

**Twin Caves Hours:**  
9:00am-5:00pm (EDT)  
Daily May 27 thru Labor Day  
Weekends thru October

**Grissom Memorial Hours:**  
Daily 8:30am-4:00pm (EDT)

**Property Mgr:** Mark Young  
**Asst. Property Mgr.:** Jon Winne

**Interpretive Naturalists:** Jill Vance,  
Britton Starr, and Scott Stowers

**Pioneer Village Staff:** Housekeeper,  
Weaver, Leatherworker, Quilter,  
Blacksmith, Gardener, Miller,  
and Woodworker

**Twin Caves Staff:** Cecil East, Brad  
Hinds, Roy McIver, Erik Bare,  
and Mark Shaber

**Program Specialist:** Dave Williams

### Public programs are designed for individuals and families.

If you will be bringing an organized group, you can contact the Nature Center in advance and schedule a private program just for your group (\$1/person charge). (812) 849-4129

**NOTICE: Trails 1 and 5 are currently closed for repairs.**

**HP-HP *Healthy Parks – Healthy People***


*Get “INShape” with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.*



Look for our hikes and strolls!

Watch for the roving naturalist! 

## Tuesday, August 1

**10-11am**  **Fabulous Fossils** – Did you know that an ocean used to cover Indiana? Check out some of the fossils left behind by the animals that inhabited this ancient sea. Watch for the roving naturalist by the Concession Stand.

**1:00pm** **Spring Pole Lathe Demonstration** - See how pioneer craftsmen turned table legs, rungs, and other round items using a hickory pole to help power the machine. Pioneer Village, Woodshop (30 min).


**2:30pm** **GIANTS of the Ice Age** – Discover the massive animals that roamed Spring Mill State Park during the last ice age. You’ll even see some actual remains of one these massive creatures! Nature Center, Program Room (45 min).

## Wednesday, August 2

**11:00am** **Life in the Dark** – Find out about the animals that thrive in the dark, underground world of caves! Learn about the amazing adaptations that allow them to live in a perpetual night. Nature Center, Program Room (45 min).

**1:00pm** **Cave Crawl** – See the underground world up-close in a guided tour of Donaldson Cave. We’ll look at cave formations, search for critters, and enjoy the natural “air conditioning.” *Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes.* Meet at Donaldson Picnic Area parking lot (1 hr).

**3:00pm** **Cornhusk Dolls** – Make your own simple version of this traditional pioneer toy. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn (30 min).

**5-7pm**  **Mammals Among Us** – What makes a mammal a mammal? Which mammals live in Spring Mill State Park? Are there any that you have a good chance of seeing? Watch for the roving naturalist in the campground.

**8:00pm** **Tick, TACK, TRACK** – Learn the basics of animal tracking and how to recognize some of the most common tracks seen in Spring Mill State Park. You’ll take home a quick and easy reference chart for Indiana tracks and tips on the most likely places to see signs of animal activity in the park. Campground Amphitheatre (45 min).



Thursday, August 3      It's Gonna to Be a Bright (bright, bright), Bright Sunshine-y Day!

- 10-11am      **Simple Suncatchers** – Drop in and make a simple pierced suncatcher to take home. Nature Center, back patio.
- 11:00am      **Sunny Sunflowers** – Make a sunflower magnet and learn about Indiana’s native sunflower species. Nature Center, back patio (30 min).
- 1-3pm      **Sunlight, So Bright** – Drop in and create a picture of natural objects using special paper and the power of the sun! Nature Center, back patio.
- 2:30pm      **Spectacular Sunlight** – Learn more about the Earth’s favorite star as we explore the power of sunlight and (sunlight-permitting) use it to create a unique craft! Nature Center, back patio.

Also today in the Pioneer Village....

- 1:30pm      **Spinning Demonstration** - Watch a pioneer reenactor working at the wheel! Find out what was made at the spinning wheel and why it was important to pioneer life. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn (30 min).

Friday, August 4

- 10:30am      **Twigs and Tea?** – Craft a pair of coasters out of twigs while learning about Indiana trees that can be made into tea. Nature Center, back patio (45 min).
- 11:00am      **Forge Welding Demonstration** – Watch our Village Blacksmith in action as he demonstrates one of the many skills required to produce goods in the 1800s. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith’s Shop (30 min).
- 11am-12pm  **The Biggest Trees in Indiana** – Discover where you can go to see the biggest trees in Indiana (hint: one of them is right here in Spring Mill State Park!). Watch for the roving naturalist in the Pioneer Village, Lower Residence Lawn. **HP-HP**
- 1:30pm      **Knitting Workshop** – Learn the basics of knitting, an important skill for pioneer woman to have, in this hands-on workshop. Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Shop (30 min).
- 3:00pm  **Legends, Myth, and Superstition** – Go beyond just the tree and explore legends, myths, and superstitions about our majestic oaks. Some beliefs have long ago faded away, but others may ring familiar... Meet in Twin Caves parking lot (45 min).

Saturday, August 5      PIONEER HERITAGE DAYS

- 10:15am      **Flowers Forever** – Learn how the pioneers preserved flowers and herbs for the winter months and what they were used for. Pioneer Village, Pioneer Garden (30 min).
- 11:00am      **Make a Garden Sundial** – The focal point of many formal pioneer gardens was a sundial. Design your own beautiful sundial to take home and learn how it can be used to tell time. *Cost is \$5/person. Limited to 12 participants (sign up at Garden House, and see an example craft, beginning at 10:15am).* Pioneer Village, Garden House Lawn (1 hr).
- 11:30am      **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm      **Tit for Tat** – Learn how to make a decorative trim called “tattooing” that pioneers used to line collars and sleeves. Demonstration, followed by hands-on practice. *Free, but limited to 20 participants (first come, first served).* Pioneer Village, Tavern (45 min).
- 1-2pm      **Hitting the Nail on the Head** – Drop in and watch as the Village Blacksmith crafts handmade nails the same way it was done in the 1800s. *The finished products will be available for purchase.* Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop.
- 2-3pm      **Whimmy Diddle Demo** – Drop in and see the Village Woodworker carve out some whimmy diddles – a traditional pioneer toy. *The finished products will be available for purchase, or you can pick up instructions and make your own at home.* Pioneer Village, Carpenter Shop.
- 2:30pm      **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

SATURDAY PROGRAMS CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE!



**Spring Mill Inn**  
*Since 1939*

Present this ad and receive  
**20% Off**  
**Any Gift Shop Purchase**  
***Spring Mill Inn Gift Shop***  
Open daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, August 5 CONTINUED....

- 3:00pm Braided Rug Workshop** – Braid and assemble your own miniature rug the same way that pioneers did in the 1800s. *Cost is \$2/person. Limited to 20 people (sign up in the Weaver’s Shop beginning at 2:15pm).* Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Shop (1 hr).
- 4:15pm Tin Can Lanterns** – Punch out your own unique design as you craft a tin can lantern to illuminate your campsite or the center of your table. *Cost is \$1/person. Limited to 20 people (sign up at the Meeting House beginning at 3:30pm).* Pioneer Village, Meeting House (45 min).
- 6:30pm Campground Community Potluck and Ice Cream Social** – Join your fellow campers in an old-fashioned potluck and ice cream social! Bring a dish to share, blanket or chairs to sit on, and your own tableware. The Nature Center will supply lemonade and cups. We’ll also be serving up vanilla ice cream for dessert – sponsored by the Spring Mill Inn! Campground, Site #108.

Sunday, August 6 PIONEER HERITAGE DAYS

- 8:30am Non-Denominational Worship Service** – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 9:30am Pioneer Fashion Show** – Watch as Civil War era reenactors model the “fashions” of the time. You’ll learn about who wore what, why, and how. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (45 min).
- 11:00am Sauerkraut Demonstration** – Sauerkraut was very important to the many German immigrants that made their way to Indiana. Join our Village Housekeeper and learn how this traditional German dish is made. Pioneer Village, Lower Residence Kitchen (30 min).
- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

Sunday, August 6 CONTINUED....


- 1:00pm Leather Possible Bag** – The possibilities for this bag are endless! Learn what pioneers used their possible bags for while crafting your own smaller version out of leather. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (45 min).
- 2:00pm Take a Seat on the Liar’s Bench** – Can you figure out how is telling the truth and who is spinning the tale? Find out how good your detection skills are as we play this traditional game of truth. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3-4pm Pioneer Games** – Drop in and join us in some enjoyable pioneer games. Pioneer Village, Gristmill Lawn.



If you want to understand today,  
you have to search yesterday.  
~ Pearl Buck



Monday, August 7



- 1:30pm**  **Historic Tour of the Pioneer Village** – Hear the history and stories of the people and buildings of Spring Mill Village on this guided stroll. Meet in the Pioneer Village, in front of Sheek’s (Weaver’s) Cabin (1 hr).

Tuesday, August 8

- 10:00am Life in a Lake** – Learn more about the many animals that call our lake “home” – from turtles to frogs to fish to dragonflies! Nature Center, back patio (30 min).
- 1:00pm Life in the Air** – Discover some of the adaptations that have helped make birds masters of the air! Nature Center, program room (30 min).
- 2:30pm Music of the 1860s** – Listen to some of the most popular songs of 1860s and explore the stories and people behind the music. Pioneer Village, Woodshop Lawn (30 min).

## Wednesday, August 9

## A Whole Lot of Herptiles!

- 10-11am**  **Slippery Salamanders** – Learn about the most common salamanders in Spring Mill State Park and find out the best places to get a chance at seeing one. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Donaldson Cave parking lot.
- 3:00pm** **Amphibian Awareness** – What makes a frog a frog and a toad a toad? Find out and learn some other interesting facts about these awesome amphibians! Nature Center, program room (30 min). **HP-HP**
- 5-7pm**  **Simple Snakes** – Create a simple, beaded snake of your own design and learn how color helps some snakes stay hidden and others stand out. Watch for the roving naturalist in the campground.
- 8:00pm** **Snakes of Indiana** – Learn more about the most common snakes in Indiana – where they live, what they eat, and if you should worry about them. Some of our resident reptiles will be on hand as “snake ambassadors” – giving you the opportunity to meet Indiana snakes up close! Campground Amphitheatre (45 min).

### *Also today in the Pioneer Village....*

- 1:30pm** **Tool a Leather Bookmark** – Use a technique called “tooling” to add your initials to a leather bookmark that you can take home while learning about pioneer leathercraft. Pioneer Village, Leatherworker’s Shop (30 min).


## Thursday, August 10

When nature made the blue-bird  
she wished to propitiate both  
the sky and the earth, so she gave him  
the color of the one on his back  
and the hue of the other on his breast.


~John Burroughs





## Friday, August 11

- 10:30am** **Back to School Bugs** – Get ready for the coming school year by crafting a unique “buggy” pencil holder and bookmark – inspired by our insect friends. Nature Center, back patio (45 min).
- 11am-12pm** **Bothered by Bugs?** – Want some tips on how to avoid mosquitoes? Worried about the West Nile Virus? Watch for the roving naturalist in the Pioneer Village. **HP-HP**
- 2:30pm** **Hinge Making Demonstration** – Doors can swing without them, but do you know how they are made? Find out how hinges were created in pioneer times with our Village Blacksmith (30 min).
- 3-4pm**  **Stink, STANK, SKUNK** – Discover a few facts about the striped skunk, a Spring Mill native. Learn how to look for signs of skunk activity yet avoid getting sprayed! Watch for the roving naturalist in Twin Caves parking lot.

## Saturday, August 12 **Astounding Astronomy!**

- 10am-12pm**  **Beyond Our Space** – What lies beyond our solar system? It’s a big galaxy (and an even bigger universe!)... learn a little bit about some of our current knowledge and speculation about what’s out there. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Grissom Memorial.
- 3:00pm** **Meteor Showers and Native Americans** – How did America’s original inhabitants explain those streaks of light in the night sky? Discover some of the stories and beliefs that Native Americans had about meteor showers. Nature Center, program room (45 min).
- 7:45pm** **Awesome Astronomy Crafts** – Join us to make a nocturne night dial, star “earrings”, and pictures of a glittery meteor shower. Swimming Pool parking lot (45 min).
- 8:30pm** **Our Solar System Shines!** – As we talk about the planets of our solar system, we’ll create a glowing model stretching all the way across the parking lot (and possibly beyond!). Swimming Pool parking lot (30 min).
- 9pm-Dawn** **Perseid Meteor Shower All-Niter with StoneBelt Stargazers** – Zoom in and watch for the “shooting stars” of the Perseid Meteor Shower with the aid of telescopes and the StoneBelt Stargazers! Bring a flashlight, jacket, and lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one). *[Plan to stick around all night? You’ll also want to bring water and snacks.]* Swimming Pool parking lot.


## Sunday, August 13

- 8:30am**     **Non-Denominational Worship Service** – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 9:15am**     **Where the Wind Whistles** – Discover the location of Whistling Cave, how it got its name, and learn what lies inside on this hike to the cave mouth (inside exploration is prohibited). *Be prepared to go off-trail for a short distance.* Meet at the Meeting House in the Pioneer Village (20 min).
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- 11:00am**     **Braid a Wheat Heart** – Learn the ancient art of wheat-weaving and discover its history while braiding your own heart out of wheat. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 11:30am**     **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12-2pm**      **The Indiana Cougar** – Intrigued by the alleged sightings of cougars and black panthers in southern Indiana this summer? Learn a little more about the habits of mountain lions and their history in Indiana. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Pioneer Village. **HP-HP**
- 2:30pm**     **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).


## Monday, August 14

- 2:30pm**     **Chicken Scratch Demonstration** – Watch as our Village Weaver demonstrates the art of chicken scratch and find out how pioneers used it to adorn fabric. Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Shop (30 min).

## Tuesday, August 15

- 11:00am**     **Winged Things** – Make a beautiful beaded dragonfly to take home while learning a little about dragonflies. Nature Center, back patio (45 min).
- 1-3pm**      **Creek Stomp** – Many insects – like dragonflies and damselflies – start out their lives in the water! Join us as we search for underwater insects and other stream residents. Watch for the naturalist along the creek by the Pioneer Village. **HP-HP**

## Wednesday, August 16


- 2:30pm**      **Garden Stroll** – Take a tour of our pioneer garden and discover more about its history and the plants that grow there. Pioneer Village, Pioneer Garden (30 min).
- 8:00pm**     **Crafty Campfire** – Join us for an evening of crafts around the campfire! *Limited seating available – you may wish to bring your own chair/blanket.* Campground Amphitheatre (45-60 min).

## Thursday, August 17





It is good to be alone  
in a garden at dawn or dark  
so that all its shy presences  
may haunt you and possess you  
in a reverie of suspended thought.  
~James Douglas




## Friday, August 18

- 10-11am**      **Signs in the Sky** – Learn more about how to read the sky and predict the weather using the folklore of your ancestors. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Butternut Grove Picnic Area.
- 1:30pm**     **Make a Possible Bag** – Craft a small bag, similar to a larger version carried by pioneers, and the discover the many possibilities for its use. Pioneer Village, Leatherworker’s Shop (30 min).
- 2:30pm**     **River Otters R’ Us** – Hear the story of how river otters were reintroduced to Indiana, learn how they’re doing today, and build your own otter to take home. Nature Center, program room (45 min). **HP-HP**


## Saturday, August 19    Happy 240<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Alexander Wilson!

- 8:00am**  **The Early Campers Get the Bagels** – We'll enjoy a breakfast snack of bagels, coffee, and juice and then head out for a morning hike around the wetlands to look for waterfowl. Meet at Sycamore Shelter (1 hr). **HP-HP**
- 10:30am**  **Wilson Monument Hike** – Join us for a hike to see the monument to Alexander Wilson that George Donaldson erected in the 1860s. We'll also discuss the major differences between birding in the 1800s and birding today. Meet next to Pioneer Village parking lot, at the eastern bridge across the creek (in front of Butternut Grove Shelter) (1 hr).
- 1:00pm** **Who Was Alexander Wilson?** – Poet, Painter, Naturalist, and Pioneer, Alexander Wilson came from Scotland and was the first European to study the birds of America in their native forests. Find out a little more about Wilson – and his landmark nine-volume work on the birds of North America. Nature Center, back patio (15 min).
- 1:15pm** **Happy Birthday, Birding!** – Celebrate the birth of America's first birder, Alexander Wilson, by joining us for bird-themed games and a bird craft to take home. Nature Center, back patio (45-60 min).
- 5-7:30pm**  **Beautiful Birds** – Check out the engravings (pictures) of birds that Alexander Wilson created for his "American Ornithology." With his engravings as inspiration, add your own bird picture to a collectively-drawn mural that will be displayed in the Nature Center! Watch for the roving naturalist in the campground.
- 8:30pm**  **Birds of the Night** – Learn about the birds that thrive after the sun goes down and the adaptations that make their night-life possible. Learn to imitate a whip-poor-will and see if we can call an owl close. Meet in the Nature Center, Program Room (1 hr).

## Sunday, August 20

- 8:30am** **Non-Denominational Worship Service** – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 9:15am**  **Ghosts of the Past** – Learn about the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the legacy they left our parks. On this easy stroll through the Pioneer Village, you'll see what may have been their biggest accomplishment in the state. Meet in front of the Meeting House in the Pioneer Village (30 min).

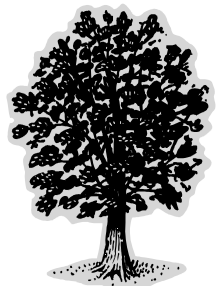
## Sunday, August 20    *Continued...*

- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12-2pm**  **Take a Bite Out of Nature** – Discover a few common wild edible plants (they're probably even growing in your yard back home!) and how you can enjoy them. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Pioneer Village.
- 1:00pm** **Music of the 1860s** – Listen to some of the most popular songs of 1860s and explore the stories and people behind the music. Pioneer Village, Woodshop Lawn (30 min).
- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

## Monday, August 21 and Tuesday, August 22




**Take some time to enjoy one of the last virgin forests in Indiana...**  
Donaldson Woods has never been logged and is home to huge white oaks and tulips, some over two hundred years old!  
Park at Twin Caves and hike Trail 3, beginning at the eastern trailhead.




## Wednesday, August 23

- 2:30pm** **Cornhusk Roses** – Craft a beautiful rose out of cornhusks. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn (30 min).

## Thursday, August 24

- 9-11am**  **Woodpecker Watch** – Listen for Nature's power tools in action and search for signs of their work. Watch for the roving naturalist on Trail 3.

## Friday, August 25

- 2-3 pm**  **Trees on the Trail** – Get your own easy ID guide to common trees of Indiana and learn how to use it. Watch for the roving naturalist by the northern entrance to Trail 6.



## GONE CAVING!

### AUGUST 26 & 27

**Special exhibits in the Nature Center!** Get information on commercial caves in southern Indiana, the Indiana Karst Conservancy (a cave preservation group), the Indiana Cave Survey, and Indiana grottos (clubs that explore wild caves).

Don't forget to book your **boat tour into Twin Caves!** Boat tours last about 20 minutes and take you 500 feet into the cave. Keep your eyes peeled for blind cavefish, cave salamanders, and other critters! *Operating hours are 9am-5pm each day. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for kids (10 and under).*

### Saturday, August 26

10:30am



**Down to Donaldson** – Join us for a guided hike into Donaldson Cave. We'll talk about how the cave was formed, explore a side passage, and look for cave critters and formations. *Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes.* Meet in the Donaldson Picnic Area parking lot (1 hr).

12-1pm



**Wind in the Rocks** – See the entrance to Wind Cave and discover how water is able to carve through solid rock. Watch for the roving naturalist by the Spring House in the Pioneer Village.

1-3pm

**Cave Rescue** – Drop in and talk with a trained cave rescuer, take a look at some of the equipment used for cave rescues, watch a slideshow of rescue operations, and, most importantly, learn what you need to do to safely explore the underground. Nature Center.

2:30pm



**Aboveground Underground** – Ever wondered if there's a cave beneath your feet? We'll follow the path of an underground passage from an aboveground perspective. Meet at Springhouse in Pioneer Village (1 hr).

9:30pm



**Movie Night: Cave Biota** – Cave Biota is a series of video clips featuring spectacular images of southern Indiana caves and the animals that live in them. Discover what lives in the underground world of Spring Mill State Park! Campground Amphitheater, next to Site #108 (30 min).

Also SATURDAY in the Pioneer Village....

8:00pm



**Living History Stroll** – Who were the people who lived in Spring Mill Village during the 1800s? Hear of their history, stories, and the rise and fall of the village. Meet at Pioneer Village, Concession Stand (1 hr). *Cost: Donation.*

### Sunday, August 27

9:15am



**History of Hamer Cave** – The cave system is the main reason why Spring Mill Village was established here. Learn what Hamer Cave has to do with the village (hint: it involves water!) and who else lays claim on it. *Hike ends inside the Gristmill in time for the 10:00am grind.* Meet in the Pioneer Village, in front of the Meeting House (30 min).

10am-2pm

**Cave Exploration!** – Don't have the right clothes or equipment to go spelunking? Want to get an idea of what it's like to explore a cave? Then drop by and check out the Hoosier National Forest's inflatable "cave"! Take off your shoes and crawl on through – it's almost 40 feet long! Pine Hill Shelter (by the Nature Center).

11:00am

**Cave Critter Creations (for Kids!)** – Children will learn about animals that live in caves, design their own "cave critter", and then "go caving" inside an inflatable cave! Pine Hill Shelter (by the Nature Center). (45 min).

1:00pm

**Hidden Wonders** – Want to know what it looks like inside Hamer and Whistling Caves? We'll view the hidden wonders of Spring Mill's caves during this slide presentation and learn why they need to stay hidden. Nature Center, program room (30 min). **HP-HP**

1:30-3pm



**Whistling in the Rocks** – Check out the entrance to Whistling Cave and learn how it got its name. Watch for the roving naturalist by the Blacksmith's Shop in the Pioneer Village.

**GONE CAVING!** is presented in conjunction with the *Indiana Karst Conservancy, Lost Creek Packs, and Hoosier National Forest* with support from the *Harrison Crawford Grotto, Bloomington Indiana Grotto, Northern Indiana Grotto, Indiana Cave Survey, Cave Country Adventures (Marengo and Wyandotte Caves), and Bluespring Caverns.*

